National Agricultural Summary

July 24 - 30, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

Abnormally cool weather hindered crop development in most areas east of the Rocky Mountains, but most crops remained up to 1 week ahead of the 5-year average. Most of the Corn Belt received rain, but amounts varied widely, with some areas remaining too dry and other areas experiencing severe storms that produced damaging hail and wind. Rain relieved drought conditions in parts of the Southeast, mainly in Florida and along the Atlantic Coastal Plains. Farther north, in the mid-Atlantic States, substantial pockets of surplus moisture hampered crops. In the Great Plains, winter and spring small grain harvest were aided by dry weather. A few row crops were harvested along the western Gulf Coast. Seasonal temperatures aided crops along the Pacific Coast.

Corn: Ninety percent of the acreage was at or beyond the silking stage, and 26 percent was at or beyond the dough stage. Below-normal temperatures hindered development in the Corn Belt, but progress through both stages remained ahead of last year's rapid pace and 1 week ahead of the 5-year average. Forty percent of the crop entered the silking stage in Wisconsin during the week and nearly one-third of the acreage began silking in Michigan. Acreage at or beyond the silking stage advanced 25 or more percentage points in Colorado, North and South Dakota, and Ohio. Acreage at or beyond the dough stage accelerated in the central and southern Corn Belt. In Illinois, nearly one-fourth of the crop entered the dough stage during the week. Progress was only slightly slower in Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, and Tennessee. In Missouri, 65 percent of the acreage was at or beyond the dough stage, the earliest since 1987, and nearly one-fifth of the acreage was at the dent stage. Increasing moisture shortages stressed fields in parts of the Corn Belt, while hail and strong winds damaged a few fields in other areas. Beneficial rains improved conditions in Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.

Soybeans: Eighty-five percent of the crop was blooming, slightly ahead of last year's early development, and more than 1 week ahead of the 71-percent average for this date. Fifty-one percent of the acreage was setting pods, well ahead of last year's 40-percent pace and far ahead of the 5-year average. Development rapidly progressed in the Corn Belt and lower Mississippi Valley, despite cooler-than-normal weather. In Michigan and Wisconsin, soybeans in bloom increased 30 and 36 percentage points, respectively. However, progress in Michigan still lagged behind normal. Acreage setting pods advanced more than 30 percentage points in Iowa and North Dakota. Pod setting progressed 28 percentage points in Illinois and Minnesota. About one-fifth of the acreage began setting pods in Indiana, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. Scattered rain and adequate moisture maintained conditions in most areas, but conditions deteriorated along the lower Ohio and Mississippi Valleys due to moisture shortages. Dry conditions also stressed fields in parts of Iowa, Nebraska, and Ohio.

Small grains: The winter wheat harvest advanced to 91 percent complete, slightly ahead of last year and 1 week ahead of the 87-percent average for this date. Harvest rapidly progressed in Michigan and was nearly complete before late-week rains halted progress. Dry weather aided rapid progress in the northern Great Plains and Pacific Northwest. Nearly all acreage was harvested in Colorado and Nebraska. The spring wheat crop was 6 percent harvested, ahead of last year and the average of 4 and 3 percent, respectively. Harvest accelerated in South Dakota, where rain delays were minimal. The barley crop was 7 percent harvested, compared with 3 percent last year and 4 percent normally harvested by this date. Mostly dry weather aided rapid progress in Minnesota. The oat harvest was 38 percent complete, 3 percentage points ahead of last year and 11 percentage points ahead of the average for this date. Dry weather aided progress in the northern Great Plains. In the Corn Belt, progress was rapid despite rain delays in some areas.

Cotton: Acreage setting bolls advanced to 79 percent, ahead of last year and the 5-year average of 73 and 75 percent, respectively. Although temperatures averaged well below normal in parts of the Southeast, fields rapidly entered the boll setting stage. In Virginia, nearly one-third of the acreage began setting bolls during the week, but progress remained well behind the 5-year average. Boll setting advanced 20 percentage points in North Carolina and Oklahoma, while California's crop began setting bolls on one-fourth of the acreage. In Texas, 12 percent of the crop had bolls opening and 4 percent of the acreage was harvested. Conditions improved in Oklahoma and Missouri due to beneficial rain and milder temperatures. Seasonal temperatures also aided development in California.

Rice: Forty-seven percent of the crop was headed, slightly ahead of last year and the average. Fields rapidly headed in the interior Mississippi Delta States, despite below-normal temperatures. Eight percent was harvested, ahead of last year's 4 percent pace and the normal progress of 3 percent. Harvest progress was far ahead of normal in Louisiana, where rain delays were scattered and brief. Dry weather also aided harvest in Texas, although progress was just slightly ahead of the 5-year average.

Other crops: Sixty-two percent of the sorghum acreage was at or beyond the heading stage, more than 1 week ahead of last year and the average for this date. Twenty-six percent of the crop was turning color, 6 percentage points ahead of last year and slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Fields rapidly headed in the Corn Belt and central Great Plains, despite cooler-than-normal weather. Development was most advanced in the lower Mississippi Valley and Texas, where one-half to two-thirds of the fields were turning color.

Eighty-four percent of the peanut acreage was pegging, 7 percentage points behind last year's pace. In Alabama and Virginia, development accelerated but remained well behind normal. Many fields in Florida were stressed by moisture shortages.